

estates, \$5 billion estates. It totally repeals any tax whatsoever on estates of that size.

Yesterday, I spoke in opposition to the House bill, and Senators THOMAS and INHOFE expressed a little surprise. They said when they talk to ordinary folks in their home States, they hear a lot about the estate tax, and people want reform. They wondered whether I was hearing the same in my State of Montana. I sure am, all the time—in coffee shops, in grocery stores, lots of people talk to me. They think it hits too hard on farms, ranches, and small businesses. That is precisely the point. The House bill responds to these with an abstraction—repeal, 10 years from now.

The Democratic alternative says, no, we are not going to wait 10 years; we are going to do it now. We respond with honest-to-goodness relief. I am sure there is somebody in Montana with an estate worth more than \$8 million who will still have to pay some estate tax under the Democratic alternative. But there sure aren't many of them.

Remember, the vast majority of the estates are either not affected by the tax now or, if they are, would be completely exempt under the Democratic alternative. One other virtue of the Democratic alternative is it costs much less than the House bill, \$40 billion less over 10 years. After that, the savings are even greater.

As a result, the Democratic alternative allows us not only to reform the estate tax in a way that helps where it is needed the most, but it also allows us to address other priorities that, frankly, are more important than total repeal of the estate tax, particularly for huge estates.

For example, what about the national debt? The Democratic alternative leaves an additional \$40 billion available to pay down the national debt. Or we could use the savings to provide tax cuts to meet other important needs; help average families save for retirement or their kids' college education, or help people meet long-term medical care costs; protect Social Security and Medicare.

Believe me, these are good things that we hear about at home all the time. I believe that more people are more concerned about these matters than they are about total repeal of the estate tax, particularly for large estates.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time has arrived to proceed to the next order of business.

The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the next votes in

the series be limited to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. The first vote will be 15 minutes and thereafter 10 minutes. We agree.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2549) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Feingold pending amendment No. 3759, to terminate production under the D5 submarine-launched ballistic missile program.

Durbin Amendment No. 3732, to provide for operationally realistic testing of National Missile Defense systems against countermeasures; and to establish an independent panel to review the testing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, it is my understanding that under the order we will now proceed to two votes. I recommend to the Senate that we proceed to the Feingold vote first.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. WARNER. Second, to the vote on the amendment of the distinguished Senator from Illinois.

At this time, I believe we have 2 minutes for those in opposition. But in deference to the proponents, we are willing to hear from the proponents first.

They are not going to use it.

Then I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, the Feingold amendment would undermine the U.S. sea-based deterrent force by killing the Trident D-5 missile program. Such a decision would cut the Navy's requirement short by 53 missiles resulting in the deployment of three fewer submarines that DOD currently believes are required.

I move to table the amendment.

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, will the Chair kindly tap the gavel a little bit to clear the well?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senators will clear the well. The Senate will be in order. The clerk will not proceed until Senators clear the well.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I thank the Chair.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 81, nays 18, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 177 Leg.]

YEAS—81

Abraham	Dodd	Lugar
Akaka	Domenici	Mack
Allard	Edwards	McCain
Ashcroft	Enzi	McConnell
Baucus	Feinstein	Moynihan
Bayh	Fitzgerald	Murkowski
Bennett	Frist	Nickles
Biden	Gorton	Reed
Bingaman	Graham	Robb
Bond	Gramm	Roberts
Breaux	Grams	Roth
Brownback	Gregg	Santorum
Bryan	Hagel	Sarbanes
Bunning	Hatch	Schumer
Burns	Helms	Sessions
Byrd	Hollings	Shelby
Campbell	Hutchinson	Smith (NH)
Chafee, L.	Hutchison	Smith (OR)
Cleland	Inhofe	Snowe
Cochran	Inouye	Specter
Collins	Kennedy	Stevens
Conrad	Kerry	Thomas
Coverdell	Kyl	Thompson
Craig	Landrieu	Thurmond
Crapo	Levin	Torricelli
Daschle	Lieberman	Voinovich
DeWine	Lott	Warner

NAYS—18

Boxer	Jeffords	Lincoln
Dorgan	Johnson	Murray
Durbin	Kerrey	Reid
Feingold	Kohl	Rockefeller
Grassley	Lautenberg	Wellstone
Harkin	Leahy	Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Mikulski

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3732

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, under the previous order, we will now proceed to the amendment by the Senator from Illinois. At such time as he concludes his portion of the 2 minutes, I yield my time to the senior Senator from Mississippi, Mr. COCHRAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUNNING). The Senator from Illinois. The time is 2 minutes, equally divided.

The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, can I have order in the Chamber?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will come to order.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this amendment which we offer is one that was debated last night on the floor of the Senate. It is very straightforward. If we are to go forward with a national missile defense system, we should have honest, realistic testing, including testing for countermeasures so we can say to the American people: Your money is being well spent; so we can say to them: If this is a source of security and defense for America, it is one that will work and function.

Some have looked at my amendment and said it must be critical of the system because DURBIN has questioned the system in the past. I presented, during the course of the debate last night, a letter from the Director of Testing and Evaluation in the Department of Defense, Mr. Philip Coyle, in which he writes to me and says:

This letter is to support your effort to reinforce the need for realistic testing of the National Missile Defense System.

It is very clear to the Pentagon, as it is to those who listened to the debate last night, that this is not a friendly amendment nor an amendment that sets out to end the national missile defense system. This is an amendment which asks for the facts and asks for the reality. I hope Senators will support it.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I come to the floor this morning to voice my support for perhaps the most important amendment—on one of the most important bills—the Senate will consider this year.

National missile defense is one of the most critical defense issue facing this nation.

It is probably one of the more politically charged issues as well.

Despite political sensitivity and, frankly, political risk, Senator DURBIN has looked carefully at the facts, and at the arguments on all sides of this issue. His amendment reflects a balanced measured approach that I believe should be endorsed by both supporters and opponents of a missile defense system.

The Senate should adopt the Durbin amendment for two reasons: What it doesn't say. And what it does say.

What the amendment doesn't say is whether a missile defense system is a good idea, or a bad idea.

Frankly, I believe we do not have enough information yet to make that call. The Durbin amendment actually presumes a NMD system will be deployed. But it does not address the issue of whether it should be deployed.

What the Durbin amendment does say, it says well. Simply put, this amendment says that before we commit \$60 billion—or more—to deploy a national missile defense system, we must be confident the system will work. Nothing more, nothing less. Americans have a right to know that their tax dollars aren't being wasted on a system that cannot work. And we have a responsibility to provide them with that assurance.

The Durbin amendment says that before a national missile defense system can be declared operational, the system must be tested against measures our enemies can be expected to take to defeat it, and the Secretary of Defense must prepare a report for Congress on the ability of the NMD system to defeat these countermeasures.

The amendment also reconvenes the Welch panel, an independent review

panel chaired by General Welch, to assess countermeasure issues and deliver a report on findings to both the Defense Department and the Congress.

Why are such assurances needed?

Deployment of a national missile defense system would signal a dramatic change in the deterrent strategy this Nation has followed successfully for over 40 years. Moving to new strategy dependent on defenses is not without risks.

Missile defense deployment requires enormous public commitment—not unlike our effort to put a man on the Moon.

While success can never be guaranteed, American people have a right to know that success is possible—before we commit \$60 billion, or more, to it.

The President must have confidence the system will work. Also, critically important, our adversaries must know a national defense system will work.

A deterrent is not effective if enemies can be confident it may not, or will not, work. If tests demonstrate for the world that the United States has a strong missile defense system, our adversaries are much less likely to want to test our defenses.

Another reason assurances are needed: Increasing number of studies that raise questions about whether current missile defense testing program can provide future leaders with adequate level of confidence.

Philip Coyle III, the Pentagon's Director of Operational Testing and Evaluation, issued a report to Congress earlier this year. The report concluded the pre-deployment tests will not be conducted "in a realistic enough manner to support acquisition decisions."

A recent report by MIT found that relatively simple countermeasures could defeat the planned NMD system—and that current testing is not capable of evaluating the operational effectiveness of the system against likely countermeasures. This is a critical deficiency.

Technical experts warn that any emerging "missile state" that is capable of deploying a long-range ballistic missile is also capable of building countermeasures that could defeat a NMD system.

The intelligence community released a report last year on "Foreign Missile Development and the Ballistic Missile Threat to the United States through 2015." The report warned that emerging "missile states" could develop countermeasures such as decoy balloons by the time they flight test their first long-range missiles.

They could also acquire countermeasure technologies from Russia and China—both of whom possess such technologies, and both of whom strongly oppose a U.S. NMD system.

Reasons to oppose amendment? I can think of only one reason to oppose this amendment: Belief that we should de-

ploy an NMD system at any cost. Regardless of whether the system can work. Regardless of the cost to American taxpayers. Regardless of the effects deployment could have on our relationships with our allies. Regardless of how it might escalate an international nuclear arms race. Regardless of everything.

I understand that there are some who feel this way. Frankly, I cannot understand this sort of thinking. They wouldn't buy a car before test-driving it. Why in the world would they buy a \$60 billion defense system before knowing that it can work?

A missile defense system that undermines our Nation politically, economically, and strategically—without strengthening our defense—is no defense at all.

The American people have a right to know that—if we deploy a national missile defense system—it will work. The Durbin amendment will take a big step toward providing them with that assurance. We should adopt it.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, 50 Nobel laureates signed an open letter to President Clinton on July 6, 2000, urging him to reject a proposed \$60 billion missile defense system. I ask that the letter may be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

JULY 6, 2000.

PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON,
The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We urge you not to make the decision to deploy an anti-ballistic missile system during the remaining months of your administration. The system would offer little protection and would do grave harm to this nation's core security interests.

We and other independent scientists have long argued that anti-ballistic missile systems, particularly those attempting to intercept reentry vehicles in space, will inevitably lose in an arms race of improvements to offensive missiles.

North Korea has taken dramatic steps toward reconciliation with South Korea. Other dangerous states will arise. But what would such a state gain by attacking the United States except its own destruction?

While the benefits of the proposed anti-ballistic missile system are dubious, the dangers created by a decision to deploy are clear. It would be difficult to persuade Russia or China that the United States is wasting tens of billions of dollars on an ineffective missile system against small states that are unlikely to launch a missile attack on the U.S. The Russians and Chinese must therefore conclude that the presently planned system is a stage in developing a bigger system directed against them. They may respond by restarting an arms race in ballistic missiles and having missiles in a dangerous "launch-on-warning" mode.

Even if the next planned test of the proposed anti-ballistic missile system works as planned, any movement toward deployment would be premature, wasteful and dangerous.

Respectfully,
Sidney Altman, Yale University, 1989 Nobel Prize in chemistry.

Philip W. Anderson, Princeton University, 1977 Nobel Prize in physics.

Kenneth J. Arrow, Stanford University, 1972 Nobel Prize in economics.
Julia Axelrod, NIH, 1970 Nobel Prize in medicine.

Baruj Benacerraf, Dana Farber Cancer Inst., 1980 Nobel Prize in medicine.

Hans A. Bethe, Cornell University, 1967 Nobel Prize in physics.

J. Michael Bishop, University of Calif., San Francisco, 1989 Nobel Prize in medicine.

Nicolaas Bloembergen, Harvard University, 1981 Nobel Prize in physics.

Paul D. Boyer, UCLA, 1997 Nobel Prize in chemistry.

Steven Chu, Stanford University, 1997 Nobel Prize in physics.

Stanley Cohen, Vanderbilt University, 1986 Nobel Prize in medicine.

Leon N. Cooper, Brown University, 1972 Nobel Prize in physics.

E. J. Corey, Harvard University, 1990 Nobel Prize in chemistry.

James W. Cronin, University of Chicago, 1980 Nobel Prize in physics.

Renato Dulbecco, The Salk Institute, 1975 Nobel Prize in medicine.

Edmond H. Fischer, Univ. of Washington, 1992 Nobel Prize in medicine.

Val L. Fitch, Princeton University, 1980 Nobel Prize in physics.

Robert F. Furchgott, Suny Health Science Ctr., 1998 Nobel Prize in medicine.

Murray Gell-Mann, Santa Fe Institute, 1969 Nobel Prize in physics.

Ivar Giaever, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 1973 Nobel Prize in physics.

Walter Gilbert, Biological Laboratories, Cambridge, Mass., 1980 Nobel Prize in chemistry.

Sheldon L. Glashow, Boston University, 1999 Nobel Prize in physics.

Roger C. L. Guillemin, The Salk Institute, 1977 Nobel Prize in medicine.

Herbert A. Hauptman, The Medical Foundation of Buffalo, 1985 Nobel Prize in chemistry.

Dudley R. Herschbach, Harvard University, 1986 Nobel Prize in chemistry.

Roald Hoffman, Cornell University, 1981 Nobel Prize in chemistry.

David H. Hubel, Harvard University, 1981 Nobel Prize in medicine.

Jerome Karle, Naval Research Laboratory, 1985 Nobel Prize in chemistry.

Arthur Kornberg, Stanford University, 1959 Nobel Prize in medicine.

Edwin G. Krebs, University of Washington, 1992 Nobel Prize in medicine.

Leon M. Lederman, Illinois Institute of Technology, 1988 Nobel Prize in physics.

Edward B. Lewis, Caltech, 1995 Nobel Prize in medicine.

Rudolph A. Marcus, Caltech, 1992 Nobel Prize in chemistry.

Franco Modigliani, MIT, Sloan School, 1985 Nobel Prize in economics.

Mario Molina, MIT, 1995 Nobel Prize in chemistry.

Marshall Nirenberg, NIH, 1968 Nobel Prize in medicine.

Douglas D. Osheroff, Stanford University, 1996 Nobel Prize in physics.

Arno A. Penzias, Bell Labs, 1978 Nobel Prize in physics.

Martin L. Perl, Stanford University, 1995 Nobel Prize in physics.

Norman F. Ramsey, Harvard University, 1989 Nobel Prize in physics.

Burton Richter, Stanford University, 1976 Nobel Prize in physics.

Richard J. Roberts, New England Biolabs, 1993 Nobel Prize in medicine.

Herbert A. Simon, Carnegie-Mellon Univ., 1978 Nobel Prize in economics.

Richard R. Smalley, Rice University, 1996 Nobel Prize in chemistry.

Jack Steinberger, CERN, 1988 Nobel Prize in physics.

James Tobin, Yale University, 1981 Nobel Prize in economics.

Daniel C. Tsui, Princeton University, 1998 Nobel Prize in physics.

Steven Weinberg, University of Texas, Austin, 1979 Nobel Prize in physics.

Robert W. Wilson, Harvard-Smithsonian, Ctr. for Astrophysics, 1978 Nobel Prize in physics.

Chen Ning Yang, Suny, Stony Brook, 1957 Nobel Prize in physics.

Owen Chamberlain*, University of California, Berkeley, 1959 Nobel Prize in physics.

Johann Diesenhofer*, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, 1988 Nobel Prize in chemistry.

Willis E. Lamb, Jr.*, Stanford University, 1955 Nobel Prize in physics.

*These laureates signed the letter within hours after the letter was delivered to the White House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, the Durbin amendment is unnecessary. It purports to direct the manner and details of a missile testing program that the Secretary of Defense is committed to conduct already.

This amendment is an unprecedented effort by the Senate to micromanage a weapons system testing program. In no other program has the Senate tried to legislate in this way to dictate to DOD how a classified national security testing program should be conducted.

The directions to DOD in this amendment are vague. They would inevitably lead to confusion and unnecessary delays in the development of this complex, but very important, capability to defend our Nation against a serious threat. I urge the Senate to reject this amendment.

I move to table the amendment and ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 178 Leg.]

YEAS—52

Abraham	Frist	Murkowski
Allard	Gorton	Nickles
Ashcroft	Gramm	Roberts
Bennett	Grams	Roth
Bond	Grassley	Santorum
Brownback	Gregg	Sessions
Bunning	Hagel	Shelby
Burns	Hatch	Smith (NH)
Campbell	Helms	Smith (OR)
Chafee, L.	Hutchinson	Specter
Cochran	Hutchison	Stevens
Coverdell	Inhofe	Thomas
Craig	Kyl	Thompson
Crapo	Lott	Thurmond
DeWine	Lugar	Voinovich
Domenici	Mack	Warner
Enzi	McCain	
Fitzgerald	McConnell	

NAYS—48

Akaka	Edwards	Levin
Baucus	Feingold	Lieberman
Bayh	Feinstein	Lincoln
Biden	Graham	Mikulski
Bingaman	Harkin	Moynihan
Boxer	Hollings	Murray
Breaux	Inouye	Reed
Bryan	Jeffords	Reid
Byrd	Johnson	Robb
Cleland	Kennedy	Rockefeller
Collins	Kerrey	Sarbanes
Conrad	Kerry	Schumer
Daschle	Kohl	Snowe
Dodd	Landrieu	Torricelli
Dorgan	Lautenberg	Wellstone
Durbin	Leahy	Wyden

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. COCHRAN. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. WARNER. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. S. 2549 is now considered read a third time.

The Senate will now proceed to H.R. 4205. The text of S. 2549 is substituted therefore, and the bill is considered read a third time.

AMENDMENT NO. 3753

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate has taken an important step toward protecting the lives and property of all Americans with the passage of the Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement Act. I am proud today to join with Senators DODD and DEWINE as a cosponsor of this legislation. I wish to thank Senator DODD and Senator DEWINE for the leadership and effort they have shown on behalf of the men and women serving as firefighters across the nation. I would also like to commend the many other Senators who already have signed on as cosponsors of this important legislation.

The Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement Act seeks to address the enormous amount of fiscal need faced by our nation's fire departments, both paid and volunteer, and does so with an eye to the human costs incurred by both firefighters and the general public these brave men and women protect every day. Every year, more than 4,000 people are killed and 24,000 are injured by fire in the United States. Sadly, about 660 of those killed each year are children. One hundred of the individuals who lose their lives to fire each year are firefighters, the very men and women who are fighting to protect others. Many of these deaths and injuries could be avoided by simply using the technology and equipment that while currently available, is often so expensive that fire departments are unable to purchase it. Similarly, many of the deaths and injuries could be avoided with increased efforts at fire prevention and training. Fire departments in many of our towns and cities spend the bulk of their entire budgets on administrative costs and compliance with existing safety regulations, and can simply not afford the available

safety equipment and training. As a consequence, far too many volunteer firefighters and EMTs are forced to pay for their own training because their departments simply do not have enough money to have them trained.

West Virginia fire departments share in this enormous need for additional funding. There are about 16,000 firefighters in West Virginia serving in 437 fire departments. Virtually every one of those departments are underfunded. West Virginians were forced to cope with almost \$73 million of property damage due to fires in 1999. More importantly, 45 civilians were killed and two firefighters were killed in the line of duty. Much of the loss of life and property, and many of these injuries could have been avoided if fire departments had the funds to deal with emergencies as effectively as possible and to establish prevention programs.

Over the past few months, my state has grieved the tragic loss of two firefighters whose deaths may well have been prevented if their departments had access to grants available under S. 1941. Angelo "Wayne" Shrader, a firefighter with the East River Volunteer Fire Department, in Princeton, WV, who also worked as a Communicator with the Mercer County "911" service, died as a result of injuries incurred fighting a fire as part of an understaffed local fire department. Similarly, Fire Lieutenant Robbie Brannon, of the City of Bluefield Fire Department, died as the result of injuries, including a heart attack, he suffered fighting a residential fire with a crew short two firefighters because of budget constraints. I humbly join with colleagues on both sides of the aisle today in honor of the bravery and sacrifice of Wayne Shrader and Robbie Brannon, and the many firefighters in West Virginia and across the nation who continue to protect us each day.

Like fire departments all across the country, West Virginia fire departments do receive support from State and local governments. Unfortunately, it is simply not enough. Indeed, fire departments in West Virginia are just like those in every other state, with equipment and personnel needs requiring substantial additional funding. Equipment such as thermal imaging cameras would be a tremendous aid to firefighters and could result in lives being saved, but such equipment is very expensive. Similarly, new and technologically advanced fire engines would be an enormous help to fire departments and the towns and cities they serve. Unfortunately, with current funding levels, most fire departments cannot upgrade their equipment and many must raise funds themselves just to fuel the antiquated vehicles many must still keep in service.

However, the greatest need fire departments in West Virginia have is the need for increased training. Additional

training would be an invaluable resource to fire departments across the state. There simply is not enough money available. Three years ago, the projected five-year need for the fire departments in Raleigh County, West Virginia, alone was \$14 million. While the Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement Act would not cover that entire need, it would be a tremendous aid to fire departments as they attempt to meet their various needs.

For many years, fire departments and firefighters across the nation have simply dealt with funding shortfalls, and yet have managed to protect our communities despite the limited resources available to them. However, we cannot expect these miracles to be performed any longer. Bake sales and bingo can only pay for so much. It is vital that the federal government become involved. The men and women serving as firefighters play an important role in the quality of life in our communities, and it is high time Congress recognizes their contribution. It is our responsibility to provide adequate funding sources to keep firefighters from facing dangers that could be mitigated or eliminated through better training, the availability of state-of-the-art equipment, and the implementation of fire prevention programs.

The Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement Act provides a portion of this much-needed relief. The legislation authorizes \$1 billion to be distributed by FEMA to fire departments across the nation on a competitive basis. No more than ten percent of this money is to be used for administrative costs. This assures that the money is really getting to the fire departments that so desperately need help. Further, at least ten percent of the funds are to be used to establish vital fire prevention programs to stop fires before they start. The remaining appropriations will be available on a competitive basis to address a wide variety of needs faced by fire departments across the nation. This allows money to be used for the most desperate needs of individual departments.

It is past time that we provide some relief to our nation's brave firefighters who have managed to get by on far too little for far too long. Once again, I commend the Senate for taking this action on behalf of our nation's firefighters. I also wish to thank Senator DODD and Senator DEWINE for sponsoring this legislation to supply a portion of that much-needed aid. Little that we do may be as immediately important as the help we should act quickly to provide our fire departments. By helping our nation's fire departments, we are truly helping everyone.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise as an original co-sponsor of the Domenici Nuclear Cities amendment and to note

that this important amendment was unanimously agreed to by the Senate.

The Russian nuclear weapons complex is a vast collection of highly secret closed cities. This complex is far larger and has significantly more capability to produce nuclear weapons than the U.S. nuclear weapons complex. Just over two years ago, the Department of Energy was presented with a unique opportunity to help Russia significantly reduce this complex, including the opportunity to close 2 of the three Russian nuclear weapons assembly facilities.

The DOE through its nuclear cities initiative has been working closely with its Russian counterpart, the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy, known as MinAtom, to reduce the size of the Russian nuclear complex by 50 percent. DOE started this effort just over two years ago, and while it took a while to get off the ground, the Nuclear Cities Program has begun to demonstrate real progress.

This amendment would direct the Secretary of Energy to expand and accelerate the activities under the Nuclear Cities Program and further assist Russia in downsizing its nuclear weapons complex. To help with this effort the amendment will provide an additional \$12.5 million over the current \$17 million authorized in the bill. Compared to the overall defense budget this is a small amount but an amount that can help reduce the Russian nuclear weapons complex.

This amendment directs the U.S. DOE and MinAtom, to enter into an agreement to establish a plan, with milestones, to consolidate the Russian nuclear weapons complex. In addition, MinAtom must agree, in writing, to close some of its nuclear weapons facilities, before the additional \$12.5 million can be spent.

We have a unique opportunity to further U.S. national security interests by closing some of the Russian nuclear weapons facilities. While the full burden to downsize the Russian complex remains a Russian obligation we can and should help. It is important to improve and further our relationship with Russia at all levels. The Nuclear Cities program provides many benefits to the U.S. and to Russia. The U.S. should grab this opportunity. In the future, Mr. President, I would like to see the program expanded further; this amendment is a good first step.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of S. 2549, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2001. Included in the bill that passed today are several amendments that will significantly improve the lives of active duty members, reservists, military retirees, veterans, and their families.

These amendments greatly improved the version of the bill that came out of the Armed Services Committee. I had

voted against reporting the bill out of the Committee because it did not include important measures for military personnel and neglected the issue of defense reform.

The critical amendments that were included in the legislation that passed today will: remove servicemembers from food stamps; increase pay for mid-grade Petty Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers; assist disabled veterans in claims processing; restore retirement pay for disabled military retirees; provide survivor benefit plan enhancements; authorize a low-cost life insurance plan for spouses and their children; enhance benefits and retirement pay for Reservists and National Guardsmen; authorize back-pay for certain WWII Navy and Marine Corps Prisoners of War; and provide for significant acquisition reform by eliminating domestic source restrictions on the procurement of shipyard cranes.

One of the areas of greatest concern among military retirees and their families is the "broken promise" of lifetime medical care, especially for those over-age 65. While the Committee had included some key health care provisions, it failed to meet the most important requirement, the restoration of this broken promise.

With severe recruitment and retention problems still looming, we must better compensate our mid-grade enlisted servicemembers who are critical to leading the junior enlisted force. We have significantly underpaid enlisted servicemembers since the beginning of the All-Volunteer Force. The value of the mid-grade NCO pay, compared to that of the most junior enlisted, has dropped 50 percent since the All-Volunteer Force was enacted by Congress in 1973. This pay provision for the mid-grade enlisted ranks, up to \$700 per year, plus the food stamp pay provision of an additional \$180 per month for junior enlisted servicemembers, provides a significant increase in pay for enlisted servicemembers.

The National Guard and Reserves have become a larger percentage of the Total Force and are essential partners in a wide range of military operations. Due to the higher deployment rates of the active duty forces, the Reserve Components are being called upon more frequently and for longer periods of time than ever before. We must stop treating them like a "second-class" force.

I would like to emphasize the importance of enacting meaningful improvements for our servicemembers, their families and their survivors. They risk their lives to protect our freedom and preserve democracy. We should compensate them adequately, improve the benefits to their families and survivors, and enhance the quality of life for the Reserves and National Guard in a similar manner as the active forces.

Each year the number of disabled veterans appealing their health care

cases continues to increase. It is Congress' duty to ensure that the disability claims process is less complex, less burdensome, and more efficient. Likewise, we should restore retirement pay for disabled military retirees.

I would also like to point out that this year's defense authorization bill contained over \$1.9 Billion in pork—unrequested add-ons to the defense budget that robs our military of vital funding on priority issues. While this year's total is less than previous years' it is still \$1.9 Billion too much. We need to, and can do better. I ask that the detailed list of Pork on this bill be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD following my remarks.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize the importance of enacting meaningful improvements for active duty and Reserve members. They risked their lives to defend our shores and preserve democracy and we can not thank them enough for their service. But we can pay them more, improve the benefits for their families, and support the Reserve Components in a similar manner as the active forces.

We must ensure that the critical amendments that I have outlined survive the Conference process and are enacted into law. Our servicemembers past, present, and future need these improvements, and the bill that we passed today is just one step on the road to reform.

There being no objection, the list was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

*Defense Authorization Act (S. 2549) for FY 2001
add-ons, increases and earmarks*

Dollars (in millions)

TITLE I, PROCUREMENT

Army Procurement (none)

Navy Procurement:

Airborne Low Frequency Sonar (ALFS)	6
Allegany Ballistics Lab GOCO	7.7
LHD-8 Advanced Procurement	46
Adv Procurement DDG 51	79
MSC Thermal Imaging Equipment	4
Integrated Condition Assessment System (ICAS)	5
Side-Scan Sonar	5
Joint Engineering Data Management & Info Control (JEDMICS)	4
AN/SPQ-9B Gun Fire Control Radar	4
NULKA Anti-Ship Missile Decoy	4.3
Marine Corps Procurement:	
Improved Night/Day Fire Control Observation Device (INOD)	2.7
Air Force Procurement:	
C-17 Cockpit System Simulation	14.9
C-17 A/C Maintenance System Trainer (AMST)	11.5
Combat Training Ranges	20

TITLE II, R, D, T, AND E

Army R, D, T & E:

Composite Materials	6
Advanced missile composite component	5
Ballistics Technology	3.5
Portable Hybrid Electric Power Research	1.5
Thermoelectric Power Generation for Military Applications	1
Operational Support	4
Equipment Readiness	8

*Defense Authorization Act (S. 2549) for FY 2001
add-ons, increases and earmarks—Continued*

Dollars (in millions)

Fuel Cell Auxiliary Power Units	4
Enabling Technologies for Future Combat Vehicle	46.3
Big Crow	7
Simulation Centers Upgrades	4.5
Family of Systems Simulators	3
Army Space Control	5
Acoustic Technology	4
Radar Power Technology	4
Scramjet Acoustic Combustion Enhancement	2
Aero-Acoustic Instrumentation	4
Supercluster Distributed Memory ..	2
SMDC Battlelab	5
Anti-malaria Research	2
SIRFC/ATIRCM	38.5
Threat Virtual Mine Simulator	2.5
Threat Information Operations Attack Simulator	2.1
Cost Reduction Effort MLRS/HIMARS	16
Design and Manufacturing Program Center for Communications and Networking	5
Navy R, D, T & E:	
Free Election Laser	5
Biodegradable Polymers	1.25
Bioenvironmental Hazards Research	3
Nontraditional Warfare Initiatives	2
Hyperspectral Research	3
Cognitive Research	3
Nanoscale Sensor Research	3
Ceramic and Carbon Based Composites	2
Littoral Area Acoustic Demo	3
Computational Engineering Design ..	2
Supply Chain Best Practices	2
Virtual Tested for Reconfigurable Ship	2
Modular Composite Hull	4
Composite Helo Hangar Door	5
Advanced Waterjet-21	4
Laser Welding and Cutting	2.8
Ocean Modeling for Mine and Expeditionary Warfare	3
USMC ATT Initiative	15
Minesweeper Integrated Combat Weapons Systems	5
Electric Motor Brush Technology ..	2
Advanced Composite Sail Technology	2.5
Shipboard Simulation for Marine Corps Operations	20
Common Command and Decision Functions	10
Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicles	27.5
High Mobility Artillery Rocket System	17.3
Extended Range Guided Munition ..	10
Nonlethal Research and Technology Development	8
NAVCHIT	4
Parametric Airborne Dipping Sonar ..	10
Advanced Threat Infrared Countermeasures	8
Power Node Control Center	3
Advanced Food Service Technology ..	2
SPY-3 and Volume Search Radar ...	8
Multi-purpose Processor	15
Antenna Technology Improvements ..	5
Submarine Common Architecture ..	5
Advanced Tactical Software Integration	4
CVN-77, CVN(X), and Nimitz Class Smart Product Model	10
NULKA Dual Band Spatially Distributed Infrared Signature	2.1
Single Integrated Human Resources Strategy	3

*Defense Authorization Act (S. 2549) for FY 2001
add-ons, increases and earmarks—Continued*

<i>Dollars (in millions)</i>	
Marine Corps Research University	3
Reentry System Application Program	2
Joint Tactical Combat Training System	5
SAR Reconnaissance System Demonstrator	9
Interoperability Process Software Tools	2
SPAWAR SATCOM Systems Integration Initiative	2
Distributed Engineering Plant	5
Air Force R, D, T & E:	
Resin Systems for Engine Applications	2
Laser Processing Tools	4
Thermal Protection Systems	1.5
Aeronautical Research	6
Variable Displacement Vane Pump	3
PBO Membrane Fuel Cell	5
Aluminum Aerostructures	3
Space Survivability	5.6
HAARP	7
Integrated Demonstration & Applications Laboratory (IDAL)	6
Fiber Optic Control Technology	2
Miniature Satellite Threat Reporting System (MSTRS)	5
Upper Stage Flight Experiment	5
Scorpius	5
Space Maneuver Vehicle	15
Solar Orbital Transfer Vehicle (SOTV)	5
Micro-Satellite Technology (XSS-10)	12
Composite Payload Fairings and Shrouds	2
SBL Integrated Flight Experiment (IFX)	30
Airborne Laser Program	92.4
RSLP GPS Range Safety	19.2
SATCOM Connectivity	5
BOL Integration	7.6
Hyperspectral Technology	2
Extended Range Cruise Missile	86.1
Global Air Traffic Management	7.2
Lighthouse Cyber-Security	5
B-2 Connectivity	3
U-2 Syers	6
Improved Radar for Global Hawk	6
Global Hawk Air Surveillance Demonstration	12
Defense Wide R, D, T & E:	
Personnel Research Institute	4
Infrasound Detection Basic Research	1.5
Program Increase	15
Chemical Agent Detection-Optical Computing	2
Thin Film Technology	3
Wide Band Gap	2
Bio-defense Research	2.1
Hybrid Sensor Suite	8
High Definition Systems	7
Three-Dimensional Structure Research	3
Chem-Bio Detectors	5
Blast Mitigation Testing	3
Facial Recognition Access Control Technology	2
Magdalena Ridge Observatory	9
Wide Band Gap	10
Excalibur	3
Atmospheric Interceptor Technology	15
Chem-Bio Individual Sampler	2.7
Consequence Management Information System	6.4
Chem-Bio Advanced Materials Research	3.5
Small Unit Bio Detector	8.5

*Defense Authorization Act (S. 2549) for FY 2001
add-ons, increases and earmarks—Continued*

<i>Dollars (in millions)</i>	
Complex System Design	5
Competitive Sustainment Initiative	5
WMD Simulation Capability	5
HAARP	5
Integrated Data Environment (IDE)	2
Advanced Optical Data and Sensor Fusion	3
Advanced Research Center	6.5
KE-ASAT	20
WMD Response System	1.6
Information Operations Technology Center Alliance	5
Trust Rubix	1.8
Cyber Attack Sensing and Warning	20
Virtual Worlds Initiative	2
Smart Maps	2
NIMA Viewer	5
JCOATS-IO	5
Information Assurance Testbed	5
Advanced Lightweight Grenade Launcher	5.6
Operational Test & Evaluation, Defense, R, D, T & E:	
Central T & E Investment Development (CTEIP) Program Increase	20
Reality Fire-Fighting Training	1.5
TITLE III, OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE	
Army O&M:	
Range Upgrade	50
Battlefield Mobility Enhancement System	10
Clara Barton Center for Domestic Preparedness	1.5
Navy O&M:	
Navy Call Center—Cutler, Maine	3
Operational Meteorology and Oceanography	7
Nulka Training	4.3
Range Upgrades	25
MTAPP	2
Information Technology Center—New Orleans, LA	5
Nansemond Ordnance Depot Site—Suffolk, VA	0.9
USMC O&M (none)	
USAF O&M (none)	
O&M Defense Wide:	
JCS Mobility Enhancements	50
Defense Acquisition University	2
DLA MOCAS Enhancements	1.2
Joint Spectrum Center Data Base Upgrade	25
Legacy Project, Nautical Historical Project—Lake Champlain, NY	6.1
Information Security Scholarship Program	20
Command Information Superiority Architecture	2
Information Protection Research Institute	10
Impact Aid	20
MISCELLANEOUS	
Defense Health Program	98
Kaho'olawe Island Conveyance	25
Alkali Silica Reactivity Study	5
Sec. 373. Reimbursement by Civil Air Carriers for Johnston Atoll Support	
Sec. 1041. Inst. for Defense Computer Sec. & Info. Protection	10
Sec. 2831. Land Conveyance, Price Support Center, Granite City, IL	
Sec. 2832. Land Conveyance, Hay Army Res. Center, Pittsburgh, PA	
Sec. 2833. Land Conveyance, Steele Army Res. Center, Pittsburgh, PA	
Sec. 2834. Land Conveyance, Fort Lawton, WA	
Sec. 2835. Land Conveyance, Vancouver Barracks, WA	

*Defense Authorization Act (S. 2549) for FY 2001
add-ons, increases and earmarks—Continued*

<i>Dollars (in millions)</i>	
Sec. 2851. Land Conveyance, MCAS Miramar, CA	
Sec. 2852. Land Conveyance, Defense Fuel Supply Point, Casco Bay, ME	8
Sec. 2853. Land Conveyance, Former NTC Bainbridge, Cecil County, MD	5
Sec. 2854. Land Conveyance, Naval Computer & Telecomm. Station, Cutler, ME	2
Sec. 2871. Land Conveyance, Army & Air Force Exchange, Farmers Branch, TX	20
AMENDMENTS	
Amdt. 3219. To modify authority to carry out a fiscal year 1990 military construction project at Portsmouth Naval Hospital, VA	8.5
Amdt. 3235. To authorize a land conveyance, Ft. Riley, KS	
Amdt. 3242. To modify authority for use of certain Navy property by the Oxnard Harbor District, Port Huemene, CA	
Amdt. 3383. To provide with an offset, \$5 million for R, D, T, & E Defense-wide for strategic environment Research & Development Program for technologies for detection & transport of pollutants from live-fire activities	5
Amdt. 3385. To set aside for weather-proofing facilities at Keesler Air Force Base, MS, \$2.8 million of amount authorized to be appropriated for USAF operation & maintenance	2.8
Amdt. 3389. To treat as veterans individuals who served in the Alaska Territorial Guard during W.W.II	
Amdt. 3400. To authorize a land conveyance, former National Ground Intelligence Center, Charlottesville, VA	
Amdt. 3401. To authorize a land conveyance, Army Reserve Center, Winoona, MN	
Amdt. 3404. To authorize acceptance and use of gifts from Air Force Museum Foundation for the construction of a third building for the Museum at Wright-Patterson USAF Base, OH	
Amdt. 3407. To permit the lease of the Naval Computer Telecomm. Center, Cutler, ME, pending its conveyance	
Amdt. 3408. To modify the authorized conveyance of certain land at Ellsworth Air Force Base, SD	
Amdt. 3415. To provide for the development of a USMC Heritage Center at Marine Corps Base, Quantico, VA	
Amdt. 3423. To authorize SecNav to convey to the city of Jacksonville N.C., certain land for the purpose of permitting the development of a bike/green way trail	
Amdt. 3424. To authorize, with an offset, \$1.45 million for a contribution by the Air National Guard, the construction of a new airport tower at Cheyenne Airport, WY	
Amdt. 3460. P-3/H-1/SH-60R Gun Modifications	30
Amdt. 3462. CIWS MODS	30
Amdt. 3465. Land Conveyance, Los Angeles AFB	
Amdt. 3466. Procurement of AV-8B aircraft	92
Amdt. 3467. Information Technology Center, LA	5

*Defense Authorization Act (S. 2549) for FY 2001
add-ons, increases and earmarks—Continued*

<i>Dollars (in millions)</i>	
Amdt. 3468. USMC Trucks, tilting brackets and mobile electronic warfare support system	10
Amdt. 3477. Joint Technology Information Center Initiative	20
Amdt. 3481. Tethered Aerostat Radar System Sites	33
Amdt. 3482. Special Warfare Boat Integrated Bridge Systems	7
Amdt. 3483. R, D, T & E for Explosive Demilitarization Technology	5
Amdt. 3488. Procurement of AGM-65 Maverick missiles	2.1
Amdt. 3489. Procurement of Rapid Intravenous Infusion Pumps	6
Amdt. 3490. Training Range Upgrades, Fort Knox, KY	4
Amdt. 3490. (cont.) Overhaul of MK-45 5 inch guns	12
Amdt. 3770. National Labs Partnership Improvements	10
Amdt. 3801. National Energy Technology Lab, Fossil Energy R&D	4
Amdt. 3802. Florida Restoration Grant	2
Amdt. 3812. Indian Health Care for Diabetes	7.372
Amdt. 3807. Salmon restoration and conservation in Maine	5
Amdt. 3795. Forest System Land Review Committee	1
Total:	1,981,522,000

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to offer strong support of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001. This legislation contains many positive things for the state of New Mexico and the United States—both in the programs funded and the changes made to enhance research and development efforts. Chairman WARNER should take pride in his committee's efforts to appropriately allocate defense funding.

For the second year in a row the committee was able to recommend a real increase in defense spending by adding \$4.5 billion above the President's fiscal year 2001 request. The recommendation of \$309.8 billion is not only consistent with the budget resolution it also allows for a 4.4-percent increase in real growth for defense from last year's appropriated level of funding.

The committee authorized \$63.28 billion in procurement funding, a \$3.0 billion increase over the President's budget. Operations and maintenance was funded at \$109.2 billion with \$1.5 billion added to the primary readiness accounts. Research, development, test and evaluation was budgeted at \$39.31 billion, a \$1.45 billion increase over the President's budget. These impressive funding levels mark the beginning of a challenging march toward a stronger, better, national defense.

Quality of life receives needed attention. I applaud the 3.7-percent pay raise for military personnel, the comprehensive retail and national mail order pharmacy benefit, the extension of the TRICARE Prime benefit to families of service members assigned to remote locations and the elimination of copay-

ment for services received under TRICARE Prime.

Military construction is increased by \$430 million. I am delighted that projects critical to the productivity and well being of the service members and their families residing in New Mexico have been included in this bill. These are not glamorous projects, they are projects that will replace critical crumbling infrastructure, such as the replacement of the Bonito pipeline between La Luz and Holloman Air Force Base.

Five additional Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams were included at a cost of \$25 million. This will provide us with a total of 32 Civil Support Teams by the end of fiscal year 2001. These teams are comprised of full-time National Guard personnel trained and equipped to deploy and assess suspected nuclear, biological, chemical, or radiological events in support of local first responders. One such team is currently being trained and fielded in New Mexico, ensuring that my constituents have better protection against such attacks.

Over \$1.0 billion, an increase of \$363 million over fiscal year 2000 funding, is authorized for Defense and Energy non-proliferation and threat reduction programs. These programs continue to make great strides in the critical process of securing weapons of mass destruction and retaining scientific expertise in the former Soviet Union. To further ensure that these threat reduction programs achieve their goals, the committee has also included several initiatives to obtain greater commitment and necessary access from Russia. I also will offer an amendment to increase funding and expedite our efforts in restructuring the Russian nuclear weapons complex.

Finally, \$446.3 million is provided for the defense science and technology program—a 9 percent increase over the President's budget. This funding will focus on the revolutionary technologies to meet challenging emerging threats.

Several projects critical to New Mexico's contributions to our national defense are supported by this legislation. The Armed Services Committee approved an authorization of \$60 million for the Warfighter Information Network program. Laguna Industries plays a key role in manufacturing and assembling these mobile command and control units needed by active and Guard units across the nation.

The committee also authorized \$94.2 million to fully restore the Airborne Laser, ABL, program funding. The Air Force's ABL program is the only missile defense system currently contemplated that would strike and kill missiles in their boost phase.

The Tactical Higher Energy Laser, THEL, was authorized at \$15 million for FY 2001. THEL represents one of the

first weapons systems being tested that utilizes high energy lasers for the purposes of missile defense. The THEL program has been funded through a cost-share arrangement between Israel and the United States, with TRW having also made substantial investments in the program.

I strongly believe that lasers will transform both our offensive and defensive military means in the years to come. We should fully support these programs and address shortfalls in the science and technology funding in these technologies to ensure more rapid development and fielding of high energy laser weapons.

The committee also authorized \$49 million in additional funding for activities of the Air Force Research Laboratories at Kirtland Air Force Base, including \$5 million for the Scorpius Low-Cost Launch program, \$15 million for Military Space Plane, and \$5 million for the Solar Orbit Transfer Vehicle Space Experiment.

The Big Crow Program Office was authorized at \$7 million by the Senate Armed Services Committee. Big Crow represents a unique electronic warfare test and evaluation capability used by all of the services to ensure their weapons can perform as needed in realistic warfighting scenarios.

An authorization of an additional \$3 million will ensure continuation of the important blast mitigation research at New Mexico's Institute of Mining and Technology. New Mexico Tech houses our Nation's experts in terrorist explosives and is developing innovative ways to protect against this threat.

While I appreciate the committee's attention to these and other important programs, I believe that more must be done to ensure the directed energy science and technology is better coordinated and sufficiently funded. These technologies can assist in our defense efforts against some of the most prevalent threats confronting us. I will also be offering an amendment to this legislation that I believe will go a long way in achieving these goals.

In 1998 I spoke before this body and stated the need to start the new millennium by stopping the ebbing tide and ending the lengthy decline in defense spending. This year I am grateful to see the chairman and his committee have made the crucial step of maintaining, and improving on, the FY 2000 increase in defense spending. We must not flag in our efforts to support a strong national defense. The committee has recognized, as do most of us concerned about our national defense, that combat readiness of our Armed Forces must not be at risk. Our soldiers, and our country, deserve a national defense budget that is in keeping with international uncertainty and growing threats. Our soldiers and U.S. citizens are counting on us.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the passage of H.R. 4205, as amended.

The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Virginia and the Senator from Michigan be able to proceed for not to exceed 5 minutes equally divided.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair hears, no objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, since 1961, the Senate has passed an authorization bill for our military. We are about to pass another. I first thank the leadership of the Senate, and my distinguished ranking member, Mr. LEVIN, for hanging in as we had to move this bill under some difficult circumstances in the last 30 days.

I wish to pay a special respect to all members of the Senate Armed Services Committee. We conduct our affairs as best we can in the spirit of what is in the best interest of our Nation. The bill reflects those decisions.

I wish to thank our respective staffs, both majority and minority.

I yield to my distinguished colleague who has been with me some 22 years in the Senate on this committee. We have worked together as a team in the best interests of our country.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, first, I thank our chairman for his extraordinary leadership. Since Congress, in 1959, said that we were required to pass an annual authorization bill for the Defense Department, we have never failed. We have succeeded again this year, despite some real odds. We passed a record number of amendments. We did it because of the work of all the members of the Armed Services Committee, our staffs, and our leadership on both sides.

If I can just single out one person, I want to single out, in the leadership, if I may, Senator REID, for just sort of being here constantly to help us move the process forward.

Senator LOTT, Senator DASCHLE, all the leadership, our subcommittee chairmen, ranking members, our staffs really deserve credit for this. It is an extraordinary accomplishment, and it is a real feather in our chairman's cap.

Mr. WARNER. I thank my distinguished colleague.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I congratulate the chairman and ranking member for the fine job they have done.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I wish to associate myself with the remarks on Mr. REID. He was very helpful to get some time agreements and other matters resolved.

Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill, as

amended, pass? The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 97, nays 3, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 179 Leg.]

YEAS—97

Abraham	Feinstein	Mack
Akaka	Fitzgerald	McCain
Allard	Frist	McConnell
Ashcroft	Gorton	Mikulski
Baucus	Graham	Moynihan
Bayh	Gramm	Murkowski
Bennett	Grams	Murray
Biden	Grassley	Nickles
Bingaman	Gregg	Reed
Bond	Hagel	Reid
Breaux	Harkin	Robb
Brownback	Hatch	Roberts
Bryan	Helms	Rockefeller
Bunning	Hollings	Roth
Burns	Hutchinson	Santorum
Byrd	Hutchison	Sarbanes
Campbell	Inhofe	Schumer
Chafee, L.	Inouye	Sessions
Cleland	Jeffords	Shelby
Cochran	Johnson	Smith (NH)
Collins	Kennedy	Smith (OR)
Conrad	Kerrey	Snowe
Coverdell	Kerry	Specter
Craig	Kohl	Stevens
Crapo	Kyl	Thomas
Daschle	Landrieu	Thompson
DeWine	Lautenberg	Thurmond
Dodd	Leahy	Torricelli
Domenici	Levin	Voinovich
Dorgan	Lieberman	Warner
Durbin	Lincoln	Wyden
Edwards	Lott	
Enzi	Lugar	

NAYS—3

Boxer	Feingold	Wellstone
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The bill (H.R. 4205), as amended, was passed.

(The bill was not available for printing. It will appear in a future edition of the RECORD.)

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. STEVENS. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. S. 2549 is returned to the calendar.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for their work on this bill and for their overwhelming support. It sends the strongest of signals, first and foremost, to the men and women in the Armed Forces. This bill provides increased benefits, which they have so richly deserved and long been denied. This bill also initially starts the first balanced program to provide for more health care for the retirees who gave so much, together with their families, over the years. This bill sends a strong message throughout the world that America is committed to remain strong and lead in the cause of freedom and human rights.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want to talk about Senator CARL LEVIN, the ranking member for the Democrats on the very important defense committee of this Congress.

The Democrats could not be more proud of any Senator than we are of CARL LEVIN. We are so comfortable with him at the helm of this important aspect of what takes place in this country; that is, the preparedness of our military. He has a great working relationship with Senator WARNER. This bill was an extremely difficult bill. It simply could not have been completed without the expertise, the concern, and the respect Senator LEVIN has with his colleagues. I want to make sure the RECORD reflects that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I move that the Senate insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House, and the Chair be authorized to appoint the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The motion was agreed to, and the Presiding Officer (Mr. BUNNING) appointed Mr. WARNER, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SANTORUM, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BYRD, Mr. ROBB, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. CLELAND, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. REED conferees on the part of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. S. 2550, S. 2551, and S. 2552 are now considered en bloc. Division A of S. 2549 is substituted for S. 2550; division B for S. 2551, and division C for S. 2552. The bills are considered read the third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider is laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska is recognized.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator BYRD and I might address the Senate for not to exceed 5 minutes each to discuss the status of appropriations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE STATUS OF APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, today, we believe the President will sign the first of the 13 appropriations bills we must pass, the military construction bill. I can report to the Senate that we are in conference now on Defense, and we expect to report that bill this evening from conference, or no later than Monday. That could be easily taken up next week sometime.

The legislative appropriations bill is waiting for third reading now. It is held up by one amendment, and we are trying to work out an arrangement where we might be able to have that voted on. We are waiting for the House to appoint conferees on the foreign operations bill; the Labor, Health and Human Services Committee; and the Transportation Committee. Those are all the subject of negotiations with the various Departments and the President's advisers, to see if we might find a way to accommodate the desires of